GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1980
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
PATENTS ON DRUGS FOR TREATMENT OF AIDS
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has stated that in case the Patents are granted on drugs used to treat AIDS and related diseases, the cost of drugs might increase significantly and this may create problems for HIV patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERtlUZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) : National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) is of the opinion that in case the patent are granted, the cost of Antiretroviral drugs will increase significantly and this will impose lot of financial burden on the National ART programme particularly with regard to second line ARV drugs.The patients who are taking treatment privately will also be affected due to extra financial burden.

The ARV drugs under the potential threat of patent are:

(i)Tenofovir
(ii) Tenofovir+Lamivudine
(iii) Tenofovir + Lamivudine+EFV
(iv) Lopinavir/Ritonavir
(v) Ritonavir heat stable
(vi) Atazanavir

Also the newer antiretroviral drugs not being used presently but are iikeiy to be used in next few years include:

(i)Raltegravir
(ii) Elvitegravir
(iii) Rilprivirine
(iv) Etravirine
(v) Vicriviroc
(vi) Maraviroc
(vii) Darunavir
(viii) Valganclclovir

(c): The Patent Act 1970 contains adequate provisions to safeguard the interest of the Patients.